BOOM

76th at SEA

IT'S HOME!

GAME IT IS!

VOL. 1 14 April 1943 NO.1

THIS THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE 76TH BATTALION NEWSPAPER IS HEREBY DEDICATED TO OUR COMMANDER

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRIDGE

The 76th Naval Construction Battalion has embarked from the United States for the purpose of constructing a XXXX on the Island of XXXX.

It is hoped that the enlisted personnel of the battalion will cooperate with the Chiefs and produce a well balanced organization.

The following rules will hold from this date on.

A. Authority for granting special liberty will rest with the Chief of each platoon.
B. The right to appeal to the Company Commanders will rest with the Chiefs.
C. If liberty is granted, the men will get the approval of the Company Commander and the Executive Officer.
D. There will be no regular liberty.
E. Liberty is a privilege and not a right and must be earned.

I hereby grant full authority to the Chiefs of each and every platoon to maintain order and will hold them accountable for any deviation from Navy Regulations.

It is hoped that the various voyages we will take will be pleasant, the job to be accomplished interesting, and that you all will be able in the near future to gather around the cracker barrel and match lies with the veterans of the first World War in comfortable ease while holding down your soft privileged jobs as veterans of this picnic.

It is your Skipper's sincere wish that the entire outfit, officers and enlisted men, will strive to make the 76th Battalion the best Seabee unit the Navy ever had.

Edward R. Winkler, Jr., OIC.

STAFFE

VOL.1 14 April 1943 NO.1

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From the Editor

From the rolling waters of the blue Pacific the 76th United States Naval Construction Battalion newspaper comes to you for the first time. It is the sincere wish of all connected with the publication of this sheet that it will become a source of pleasure and information for all Officers and enlisted men of the 76th. As we go to press, the good ship USS Kenmore is moving us nearer and nearer to Island X, where we hope to and WILL do our part for the good old U. S. A.

Men of the 76th, this newspaper is yours, and you must name it. Write your suggestion on a slip of paper and hand it to your company reporter or give it to your Chief. He will pass it on to the proper person. Let those suggestions roll in. Don't be backward. The person sending in the winning name will be recognized in a later issue of this paper. A prize will also be awarded to some lucky Seabee. Be sure to sign your name, Company, and Platoon to your entry.

NOTES ON THE SKIPPER

Edward R. Winkler, Jr.
Officer in Charge
76th Naval Construction Battalion

University of Pennsylvania B. S. in C. E. 1923, C. E. 1930.

Member American Society of Civil Engineers.
Member American Military Engineers.
Member Baltimore Engineers Club.
Member American Legion, Montfaucon No. 4 Post, Baltimore, Md.

Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Fifteen years with the Pennsylvania Railroad and Subsidiary companies as Engineer in Charge of Design and construction of bridges, tracks, yards, dams and water supply facilities.

Five years with the United States Government as Civil Engineer. Superintendent of Construction on Army Camps and Airfields.

NEWS SCOOP

All men of the Battalion will be entitled to wear the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon as soon as they have served a day in active duty status on Island X.

This is the clearest piece of information we can get out of the campaign ribbon muddle.

WANT ADS

Wanted: By 1075 men of the 76th Battalion. Appointments as Ensigns in the U. S. Navy.

Qualifications: Ages, 20 to 24 years. (Truthful and otherwise).

Education: Matriculated at well known universities in the United States. Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Notre Dame, Chicago, Georgia Tech and Vassar. Graduations after 8 to 12 years substantiated by the well known skin.

Business Experience; None.

Capabilities: Well qualified to tell men to do things we are unable ourselves to do, and particularly, capable of educating Chief Petty Officers and MAA's to do likewise. We are afflicted with an ego that is odorous, and snobbishness predominates our personality.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

A nine day leave would be nice, wouldn't it? So would a thirty day leave in the States! So would a quick victory over the se stubborn little Japs so tha t we all could go back home--- for good!!!

After Hueneme, we of the 76th know better than to cherish a hope too fondly. We have wised up. Not all that is promised can come true in war time. In fact, people shouldn't make promises. That's ano ther thing we've learned.

From now on out, let's adopt thi s for a slogan. A retired Bri tish Colonel gave it to me. He used to give it to his men bef ore going over the top: "Anticipate the worst, but hope for the best." For example, the war may last for six years. We may see some ple nty active combat. We may not get home for 2, 3 years.

It is far easier to run a ten mil e race when you expect a ten mil e race than it is to run the identical course when you expect it to be only three miles.

When we have anticipated the very worst, and anything better tha n the worst happens, we have a r eason to be happy.

Roy B. Chamberlin
Chaplain USNR.

RECREATION I

First in a series of five articles by Stuart W. Evans, CSp.

Recreation or play has been considered since the early days of Her bert Spencer as a form of escap e, the release of surplus energy. Play was believed by the Puritans to be an offense in the sight of the Lord and was forbidden by law in New England.

Play or recreation is a natural instinct for all living forms of animal life. Play is instinctive at all ages and is early evidenced in children. Their play is the ins tinctive urge to be active. Adu lts' play, as we usually think of it (and they often dignify their act ivity by terming it "recreation"), is merely a changed form of physical or mental activity, and is, in fac t, a diversification of energy.

Recreation of energy takes plac during rest and reaches its maximum through normal sleep. Be it the recreation of adults or the play of children, the urge to be active has the same instinctive source. Play is very important to children and adults, and to male and female alike; it is necessary to the physical and mental health of the individual. More perhaps than most of us realize, the play and recreation of all men in the 76th Battalion is important to our democratic form of life and to the welfare of our battalion as a whole.

C.P.O. COMMENTS

Don't worry Commander Winkler, Chief Pool won't strike for Vice Admiral in the regular Navy. Battalion 76 men are still the best sports ever assembled in any outfit and it takes more than seasickness to keep them down. They are all up and ready to do a real job for you. The Chiefs take their hats off to them. Chief K. L. Baird is eating again and holding on well at the moment.

OUR OFFICERS' WAKE

There has been a good deal of speculation regarding the weavie wake left behind by some of our trailing Officers. I would like to inform you at this time that the course pursued by our skipper is strictly a nautical one.

Another thing that has been noticed is that each weavie wake tells a story. One shows that the Officer, just recently married, had no time for an engagement period. Another shows, that the crus behind the ears is not salt but stew (seasick). Yet another, liking lap dogs, but finding none, allows the fleecie locks of a fair haired blonde to take the poor dog place.

All of the Officers have something or someone on this voyage. One has his complement of men, one has his shingles, and one has his fears for his wife, and one is still hoping that the Marines will stay on the other side of the ship tonight. I might add that Hindenberg has a new line.

WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT NOTES

Upon boarding the Kenmore the Welfare and Recreations Department's facilities were limited to a collection of musical instruments, a sadly depleted welfare fund (now somewhat swelled by gambling profits, collected by astute SP's --- Praise the Lord!), and a pair of embryonic bands -- one of them a military band headed by Raymond Cutter, SF1/c, the other a swing orchestra led by LeRoy Meiller, S2/c stellar trumpeter and bugler.

At Pueneme an intuition on the part of Lt. Kolaszar had materialized and Stuart Evans, EM3/c,, Co. C, became Chief Specialist, Hdqtrs. Co, in charge of athletics in this department. Aboard ship he assumed the additional duties of physical torture specialist on the boat deck and entertainment promoter.

His previous experience and organizing ability brought the department to life. The first step was the formation of an Athletics and Recreation Council made up of Recreation leaders elected by each platoon. These leaders began their work by recruiting choir volunteers in their platoon. At the same time they sought out men in their platoons qualified to teach a subject, for an educational program is projected under the leadership of Lt. Fleming who has kindly consented to act as educational advisor to our council.

Through this all important council plans were immediately laid for a Ships' Smoker and the platoon recreation leaders were called upon to scout talent and boxers.

At the same time these leaders sought out newspapermen in their platoons and your newspaper got its start in the world.

We urge you to cooperate with your platoon recreation leaders, men. They are with you to see that you get the sports and fun that you want. Don't hesitate to kick to them if you don't like what our Council gives you.

SQUEEZE PLAY

It is rumored that the W & R Dept. will acquire either a jeep or a peep, (it has not yet been determined which), upon arrival at Island X.

PASSENGER HIGHLIGHTS

In spite of all the seasickness brought about by the swaying and rocking of this good ship, USS Kenmore, we Seabees are now as good as new once again. Why? This writer believes that the 76th Battalion owes its survival to the thirty three very beautiful ladies who have adorned a portion of the superstructure during this voyage.

And who are those fair damsels? They are Civilian employees of the Government who will work at Pearl Harbor. One is a navy nurse going back to the island on duty. But hold everything. Twenty eight of these ladies are already married and the other five will journey to the altar very soon, so don't get any ideas, sailors.

There are 511 civilian males aboard this vessel headed for work at Pearl Harbor. More power to you, gentlemen---

Have you noticed all the sailors wearing dungarees and who were not members of the 76th? There are 780 of those boys scattered over the deck and they are experts in their field. They will work at the Naval Operating Base on the island of Hawaii.

And last but certainly not least are those thirty one handsome Marines who have watched over us these days at sea. Thanks a lot boys. After all you are our allies just like the Chinese.

LOST AND FOUND

Two fountain pens, one prayer book, one cigarette case. If found, articles are turned into Troop Office, and owners can obtain same by properly identifying the article.

Due to lack of space all Company news is omitted from this issue. Thanks a lot Company reporters for your untiring efforts in submitting these reports to us. They will be published in the next issue of this sheet.

The Ed.

THANKS

The 76th Battalion wishes to extend to the Captain and the crew of the USS Kenmore its thanks and appreciation for the safe voyage we know we shall have to our destination. From information we have received we doubt if any ship afloat is in more capable hands.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Don B. Lomax, of D-5 was mayor of Bernice, Louisiana, at the time he enlisted with the Seabees.

W. C. Wise, Company A reporter, is a native of them thar hills of East Tennessee and also a next door neighbor of Sgt. Alvin C. York, World War I Hero.

A. I. Longen, of D Company, was a chicken farmer back in Oregon before casting his lot with us Naval Engineers.

It is rumored that a nine day leave may be granted to the West Coast boys upon arriving at Base X. See Commander Winkler for further details. Also, W. C. Garbe please note.

Many Seabees are grandfathers. They are not in this organization because they were forced in. They saw their nation's need and offered their skilled services. We younger men are proud of you fellows. Your mere presence is an inspiration to us to better perform the task that lies ahead.

The Seabees are the most skilled outfit of its kind in the world.

Ens. Marshall---that femme fatale you've seen around---is alleged to be a direct descendant of Chief Justice Marshall. We hear, incidentally, from the lads in the Sick Bay that she's a swell nurse.

C. C. Vasquez, Company D-2, a Spanish-American from San Antonio, Texas, is doing his bit for Uncle Sam as a CM 2/c.

T. M. Lowery of Company D-6, who hails from Tacoma, Washington, is an artist of note. He drew the likeness of the Skipper on page one of this issue.

H. E. Avery, Company B-2, did the other art work on this issue.

The 76th Battalion is proud of you fellows. We'll see you next time on Base X---Cheerio-------

FLASH

Pass this paper on to your mates. This supply is limited. Do not hoard.

BATTALION QUIPS

Chief Hood claims he has been on watch ever since he's been aboard ship. It is declared that Company C is champion of all sports until proven otherwise.

What's this we hear about Chief Fitch being the Daddy of the 76th? Odom and Barnes did some fancy serenading to the ladies on board the ship. About every other song they would come out with "Pennies from Heaven".

The following promotions have been announced from Headquarters Company: Riley, SK2c to Captain of the Head-Port. Connor, SK2c, to Captain of the Head-Starboard. Ranzenberger, SK1c, to Mess Cook. Benson, SK2c, to Mess Cook.

SCUTTLE BUTT

Dame rumor hath it, that Doc Klipfel will be ready to extract as soon as the sea smooths. He will welcome contributions of equipment from Carpenters' Mates.

NO NEWS

Due to the wide distribution of the RADIOGRAMS on board, the Kenmore no world news is carried in this issue. Our next issue on Base X will carry to you the news highlights of the world.

ATTENTION!

Chaplain Roy B. Chamberlin's Ship's Smoker Wednesday evening will bring together the 76th Battalion's crack fighters to entertain troops and passengers aboard the "Kenmore". Eight three round bouts ranging from the fast moving 130 lb. class to the hard-hitting heavyweight division, will get under way at 1715 sharp.

Our Athletic Director (Chief Lyons) has included in the program a novel dance routine by West Virginia's reeling "Baby Boy" Wright and "Jittery Johnnie" Owens between bouts four and five. This will be one of the outstanding highlights of the evening's entertainment.

Weaver and Harris, slap happy comedy team, will wrestle in the true Graeco-Roman style as best practiced by our modern masters of the mat. This performance will undoubtedly expose the subtle means which these mat monsters employ to gain a decision.

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THREE ROUND BOUTS — ONE MINUTE ROUNDS

LINEUPS

1.

L. Blea, 130 lbs. ----------Albuquerque, N. Mex.
C. L. Smith, 130 lbs.----------Tacoma, Washington

2.

J. Brosam, 130 lbs.----------Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Q. F. Kelly, 130 lbs.----------Denton, Texas

3.

S. A. Dunn, 134 lbs.----------Paris, Texas
J. M. Micklbrough, 135 lbs.----------Seattle, Wash.

4.

H. H. Trammel, 155 lbs.----------Lubbock, Texas
J. A. Davis, 150 lbs.----------Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Wright and Owens----------Dance Novelty

5.

H. J. Jamar, 155 lbs.----------Fort Worth, Texas
W. R. Sweet, 155 lbs.----------Eldorado, Arkansas.

6.

P. O. Strickland, 145 lbs.----------Stillwater, Oklahoma
R. O. Burdine, 150 lbs.----------Eufala, Oklahoma.

7.

M. M. Goswick, 175 lbs.----------Birmingham, Alabama
P. S. Hill, 174 lbs.----------Anniston, Alabama

8.

W. E. Murphy, 190 lbs.----------Toledo, Ohio
F. J. Lachowsky, 193 lbs.----------Los Angeles, California

Weaver and Harris---------Comedy Act

9.

Porter, 176 lbs.----------Pulliam, 192 lbs.

Music by "Killer" Keiller and his Swinging Seabees.